

How dost thou like the Lord Bassanio's wife?

Ieffi. Past all expressing, it is very meete
The Lord Bassanio liue, an vpright life
For hauing such a blessing in his Lady,
He findes the ioyes of heauen heere on earth,
And if on earth he doe not meane it, it
Is reason he should neuer come to heauen?
Why, if two gods should play some heauenly match,
And on the wager lay two earthly women,
And Portia one: there must be something else
Paund with the other, for the poore rude world
Hath not her fellow.

Loren. Euen such a husband

Hast thou of me, as she is for a wife.

Ieffi. Nay, but aske my opinion of of that?

Lor. I will anone, first let vs goe to dinner?

Ieffi. Nay, let me praise you while I haue a stomacke?

Lor. No pray thee, let it serue for table talke,

Then how com'ere thou speakst among other things,

I shall digest it?

Ieffi. Well, Ile set you forth.

Exeunt.

Actus Quartus.

Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Antonio, Bassanio, and Gratiano.

Duke. What, is Antonio heere?

Ant. Ready, so please your grace?

Duke. I am sorry for thee, thou art come to answer

A stonie aduersary, an inhumane wretch,

Vncapable of pittie, voyd, and empty

From any dram of mercie.

Ant. I haue heard

Your Grace hath tane great paines to qualifie

His rigorous course: but since he stands obdurate,

And that no lawfull meanes can carrie me

Out of his enties reach, I do oppose

My patience to his fury, and am arm'd

To suffer with a quietnesse of spirit,

The very tiranny and rage of his.

Du. Go one and cal the Jew into the Court.

Sal. He is ready at the doore, he comes my Lord.

Enter Shylocke.

Du. Make roome, and let him stand before our face.

Shylocke the world thinks, and I thinke so to

That thou but leadest this fashion of thy mallice

To the last houre of act, and then 'tis thought

Thou'lt shew thy mercy, and remorse more strange;

Than is thy strange apparant cruelty:

And where thou now exact'st the penalty,

Which is a pound of this poore Merchants flesh,

Thou wilt not onely loose the forfeiture;

But touch'd with humane gentlenesse and loue:

Forgiue a noytie of the principall;

Glancing an eye of pittie on his losses;

That haue of late so hudled on his backe,

Enow to presse a royall Merchant downe;

And plucke commiseration of his state

From brasse bosomes; and rough hearts of flints;

From stubborn Turkes, and Tarters neuer train'd on

To offices of tender curtesie,

We all expect a gentle answer Jew?

Jew. I haue posselt your grace of what I purpose,

And by our holy Sabbath haue I sworne

To haue the due and forfeit of my bond.

If you denie it, let the danger light

Vpon your Charter, and your Cities freedome.

You'l aske me why I rather choose to haue

A weight of carrion flesh, then to receiue

Three thousand Ducats? Ile not answer that:

But say it is my humor; Is it answered?

What if my house be troubled with a Rat,

And I be pleas'd to giue ten thousand Ducates

To haue it bairn'd? What, are you answer'd yet?

Some men there are loue not a gaping Pigge:

Some that are mad, if they behold a Cat:

And others, when the bag-pipe sings i'th nose,

Cannot containe their Vrine for affection.

Masters of passion swayes it to the moode

Of what it likes or loaths, now for your answer:

As there is no firme reason to be rendred

Why he cannot abide a gaping Pigge?

Why he a harmlesse necessarie Cat?

Why he a woollen bag-pipe: but of force

Must yeeld to such inenitable shame,

As to offend himselfe being offended:

So can I giue no reason, nor I will not,

More then a lodg'd hate, and a certaine loathing

I beare Antonio, that I follow thus

A loosing suite against him? Are you answered?

Bass. This is no answer thou vnfeeling man,

To excuse the currant of thy cruelty.

Jew. I am not bound to please thee with my answer.

Bass. Do all men kil the things they do not loue?

Jew. Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

Bass. Euerie offence is not a hate at first.

Jew. What wouldst thou haue a Serpent sting thee

twice?

Bass. I pray you thinke you question with the Jew:

You may as well go stand vpon the beach,

And bid the maine flood bite his vsuall height,

Or euen as well vse question with the Wolfe,

The Ewe bleate for the Lambe:

You may as well forbid the Mountaine Pines

To wagge their high tops, and to make no noise

When they are fretted with the gusts of heauen:

You may as well do any thing most hard,

As seeke to soften that, then which what harder?

His Iewish heart. Therefore I do beseech you

Make no more offers, vse no farther meanes,

But with all brieft and plaine conueniencie

Let me haue iudgement, and the Jew his will.

Bass. For thy three thousand Ducates heere is six

Jew. If euerie Ducat in fixe thousand Ducates

Were in fixe parts, and euerie part a Ducate,

I would not draw them, I would haue my bond?

Du. How shalt thou hope for mercie, rendring none?

Jew. What iudgement shall I dread doing no wrong?

You haue among you many a purchast slave,

Which like your Asses, and your Dogs and Mules,

You vse in abiect and in slauish parts;

Because you bought them. Shall I say to you,

Let them be free, marrie them to your heires?

Why sweate they vnder burthens? Let their beds

Be made as soft as yours: and let their pallats

Be season'd with such Viands: you will answer

The

The slaues are ours. So do I answer you, as I did V
The pound of flesh which I demand of him: he shall not
Is deerely bought, 'tis mine, and I will haue it. You say
If you deny me; fie vpon your Law: I'll eke shew you
There is no force in the decrees of Venice: answere me
I stand for iudgement, answere, Shall I haue it?

Du. Vpon my power I may dismissthis Court, if I

Vlesse Bellario a learned Doctor, who shall determine this

Whom I haue fear for to determine this, now will blow I

Come heere to day, and I will determine this, now will blow I

Sal. My Lord, heere stayes without wth a

A Messenger with Letters from the Doctor, who shall determine this

New come from Padua, and shall determine this, now will blow I

Du. Bring vs the Letters. Call the Messengers.

Bass. Good cheere Antonio. What man's courage yet?

The Jew shall haue my flesh, blood, bones, and all: y^e

Ere thou shalt loose for me one drop of blood.

Ant. I am a tainted Wether of the flocke, to die

Meete for death, the weakest kinde offruitfull

Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me fall.

You cannot better be employ'd Bassanio, wills wth a

Then to liue still, and write mine Epitaph. Rude

Enter Neriss, and

Du. Came you from Padua from Bellario?

Ner. From both, who haue brought you word of

My Lord Bellario greets your Grace: quierly wth a

Bass. Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

Jew. To cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt there:

Gra. Not on thy soale: but on thy soule harsh Jew

Thou mak'st thy knife keene: are you heere halfe the keenne

No, not the hangmans Axe beare halfe the keenne

Of thy sharpe enuy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

Jew. No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.

Gra. O be thou damnd, inexecrable dogge,

And for thy life let iustice be accus'd: wth a

Thou almost mak'st me wauer in my faith;

To hold opinion with Pythagorus,

That soules of Animals infuse themselves

Into the trunks of men. Thy currish spirit

Gouern'd a Wolfe, who hang'd for humane slaughter,

Euen from the gallows did his fell soule fleet;

And whilst thou layest in thy vnhallowed dam,

Infus'd it selfe in thee: For thy desires

Are Woluifish, bloody, stein'd, and rauous.

Jew. Till thou canst raile the scale from off my bond

Thou but offend'st thy Lungs to speake so loud:

Repaire thy wit good youth, or it will fall

To endlesse ruine. I stand heere for Law.

Du. This Letter from Bellario doth commend

A yong and Learned Doctor in our Court;

Where is he?

Ner. He attendeth heere hard by.

To know your answer, whether you'l admit him.

Du. With all my heart. Some three or four of you

Go giue him courteous conduct to this place,

Meane time the Court shall heare Bellarios Letter.

*Y*our Grace shall vnderstand, that at the receite of your

Letter I am very sike: but in the instant that your mes-

senger came, in louing visitation, was with me a yong Do-

ctor of Rome, his name is Balthazar: I acquainted him with

the cause in Controuersie, betwene the Jew and Antonio

the Merchant: we turn'd ore many Bookes together: hee

furnish'd with my opinion, which betwixt his owne lear-

ning, the greatnesse whereof I cannot enough commend, comes

wish him at my import

my sted. I beseech you

to let him haue a renou-

yong a body, with so al-

acceptance, whose trial

Enter Po

Duke. You heare

And heere (I take it)

Giue me your hand:

Por. I did my Lo

Du. You are wel

Are you acquainted

That holds this prese

Por. I am enform

Which is the Mercha

Du. Antonio an

Por. Is your nam

Jew. Shylocke is m

Por. Of a strange

Yet in such rule, that

Cannot impugne you

You stand within his

Ant. I, so he saye

Por. Do you con

Ant. I do

Por. Then must t

Jew. On what co

Por. The quality

It droppeth as the ge

Vpon the place bene

It blesteth him that

'Tis mightiest in the

The throned Monarc

His Scepter shewes t

The attribute to awe

Wherein doth sit the

But mercie is about

It is enthroned in the

It is an attribute to

And earthly power o

When mercie season

Though iustice be th

That in the course of

Should see saluation

And that same praye

The deeds of mercie

To mittigate the iust

Which if thou follo

Must needes giue for

Shy. My deeds v

The penaltie and for

Por. Is he not ab

Bass. Yes, heere I

Yea, twice the sum

I will be bound to p

On forfeit of my han

If this will not suffic

That malice beares d

Wrest once the Law

To do a great right,

And curb this cruell

Por. It must not

Can alter a decree e

'Twill be recorded fo